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## NOTES AND NEWS

A meeting of the Aristotelian Society was held in London on January 16, Dr. F. C. S. Schiller, President, in the chair. A paper on "Plato's Theory of *εἰκασία*" was presented by Mr. H. J. Paton. In Plato's account of the Line and the Cave in the *Republic* he distinguishes two sub-divisions of opinion (*εἰκασία* or intuition and *πίστις* or belief) and two sub-divisions of knowledge (*διάνοια* or mathematical reasoning and *νόησις* or philosophical reasoning). This must be understood as implying a difference of objects in each of the four sub-divisions, just as the objects of opinion and knowledge are different—the changing individuals as opposed to the unchanging universals. The parallelism or analogy between the objects of the two main divisions and those of the sub-divisions is meant to be taken seriously throughout. In particular the objects of the *εἰκασία* or intuition are the many appearances, whether given in what we call sense or memory or imagination, from which we pass to the objects of *πίστις* or belief—the solid bodies of the ordinary consciousness and of science, things relatively permanent and relatively intelligible in comparison with their many appearances,

although changing and unintelligible in comparison with the really permanent and really intelligible εἶδη or universals. It is a complete error to regard εἰκασία and its objects as of no metaphysical importance, and an understanding of the nature of this section is necessary if we are to grasp Plato's general theory of knowledge. Even Plato's theory that art must be classified under this first cognitive activity of the spirit is in its essence sound in spite of the fact that some of the conclusions which he derived from it were mistaken.

The annual meeting of the Western Division of the American Philosophical Association this year will be held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15. As usual, members will have opportunity to present papers—not exceeding twenty minutes in length—on any topics of their selection. It is proposed however that one afternoon session be devoted to *Logical Aspects of Critical Realism* with Professor A. W. Moore as leader of the discussion. All who feel especially interested in the recent volume, *Essays in Critical Realism*, or any of its problems, are invited to participate. It has been suggested that the papers of one other session relate to the problem of *The Nature of the Self*, the topic being taken broadly as covering methodological aspects of the *Mind-Body Problem*, especially *Interactionism* as it has recently been presented, and the relations of *Mechanism and Teleology* as pertaining to the nature of the self. Should the papers offered warrant doing so, this suggestion will be followed in arranging the program. A list of references on this subject may be obtained from the Secretary, Professor G. A. Tawney, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio. It is essential that the Secretary be notified of the titles at an early date. Abstracts of all papers to be read should be in his hands not later than April 7, and fifteen to twenty copies of each abstract would be highly desirable for distribution.

A group of scientific men and women from Russia now living in the United States have organized themselves into the "Russian Academic Group." Their first annual meeting was held on January 12. The purpose of the organization is threefold: (1) to study the social, economic and industrial problems involved in the development of Russia; (2) to bring about a closer contact between the scientific and educational institutions of America and Russia; and (3) to help in the reconstruction of the academic life of the Russian universities and to bring relief to their faculties and students.